IT'S PRESIDENTIAL YEAR

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Political Headliners

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: Born into an atmosphere of ships and railways, Jan. 30, 1882, at Hyde Park, N. Y. . . . Father was wealthy rail executive. . . . At 3, Franklin went on ocean trip. . . . He studied nature, learned to sail a boat and was taught thrift by his father, who gave him sums of money and required him to account for every penny.

In his youth Roosevelt traveled in Europe on a bicycle. . . . Attended school at Nauheim, Germany. . . . At 14 he learned navigation cruising his own 21-foot knockabout. . . . Attended Groton Academy, entered Harvard at 18. . . . Rowed on freshman crew, played freshman foot ball. . . . Interested in political economy. . . . He was a robust, spirited and independent student.

In 1902 Theodore Roosevelt, distant cousin of Franklin, was elected president. Franklin married Ann Eleanor Roosevelt, also a cousin, in 1907, and President Roosevelt gave the bride, his niece, away. . . . Started practice of law, but politics was constant temptation. . . . In 1910 entered State Senate race as Democrat and won in rock-ribbed Republican district.

Roosevelt campaigned for Woodrow Wilson in 1912. . . . He became assistant secretary of navy at 31. . . . Preached preparededness. . . . In 1920 seconded nomination of Al Smith for Democratic nomination for presidency at San Francisco convention. . . . Became vice presidential candidate but lost. . . . Had infantile paralysis in 1921 and at 39 was paralyzed from hips down.

For the next seven years Roosevelt went diligently at the task of healing his body. . . . In 1924, however, he was in the limelight when he tried in vain again to nominate Al Smith. . . . In 1928, at the urging of Smith, he ran for governor of New York and was elected. . . . Won again in 1930. . . . Now leads Democratic presidential candidates in delegates pledged.

IT'S PRESIDENTIAL YEAR

Alfred E. Smith

Political Headliners

Alfred E. Smith was born on New York's lower east side on Dec. 30, 1873, almost at the foot of Brooklyn bridge. . . . His young ears figuratively heard that bridge grow under the clatter of the riveter's hammer, part of New York's strange song. . . . His mother's parents were Irish immigrants; his father was a truckman. . . . He studied at St. James Parochial School.

He was 13 when his father died. . . . His mother made umbrellas. . . . He sold papers. . . . Necessity forced him out of school when he was 15. . . . He earned $8 a week as a shipping clerk. . . . $12 a week bookkeeping in a fish market. . . . He put on plays in his mother's attic. . . . Was an active member of the Tammany political club in his district, gaining valuable political experience.

On January 15, 1895, he received his first political appointment, a clerkship in the office of the commissioner of juries. . . . He fought Tammany leadership to aid a friend win political dominance in the district. . . . His sister married the policeman on the beat. . . . On May 6, 1900, he married Katie Dunn. . . . In 1901 Alfred Emanuel Smith, Jr., was born.

In January, 1904, he went to the Legislature. . . . He was reelected. . . . In 1911 he became leader of his party in Albany. . . . He was speaker of the house in 1912. . . . Six years later he became governor of New York. . . . Defeated for the next term, he was a successful candidate twice thereafter. . . . He sponsored child welfare bills, made a record for progressive legislation.

In 1928 he was nominated Democratic candidate for president. . . . To the tune of "The Sidewalks of New York" he toured the country, but was defeated. . . . Became president of Empire State Building Corporation and has offices in the world's highest building, from which he can see the Brooklyn bridge. . . . Today he is a receptive candidate for the presidency.

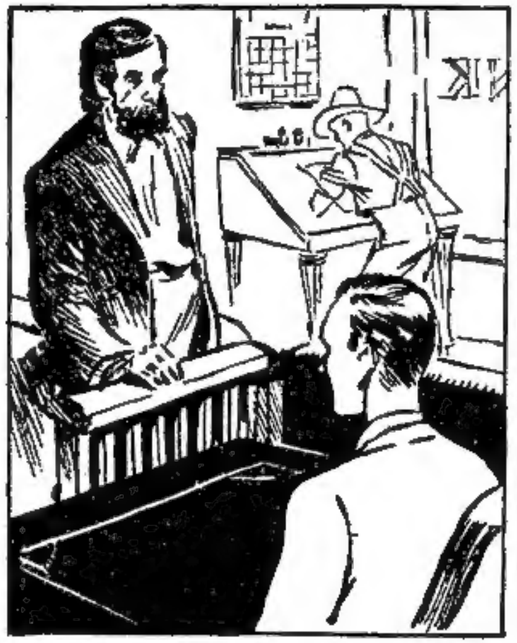
IT'S PRESIDENTIAL YEAR

Melvin A. Traylor

Political Headliners

Melvin A. Traylor was born in a log cabin in the backwoods country near Breeding, Ky., October 21, 1878. . . . Oldest of seven children. . . . His farmer father was a Jefferson Democrat. . . . Melvin built up rugged physique working on the small farm, but his schooling each year ended at cornshucking time. . . . Yet he read avidly, displaying a tenacious memory.

Excellence in debate won laurels for this tall, rangy lad, who soon became discontented with farm life and work in the village store at 25 cents a day. . . . So he decided to become a teacher, taught two years in a rural school, working on farm between terms. . . . In 1896 he took to the stump in the Kentucky mountains for William Jennings Bryan.



At 21 Traylor went to Texas. . . . Working in a grocery at Hillsboro, he read law in spare hours, passed the bar at 23, became city clerk and later assistant county attorney. . . . After apprenticeship in Hillsboro Bank was sent to run bank at Malone, Tex. . . . Married Dorothy Arnold Yerby and at 30 became president of bank in Ballinger, Tex.

As a banker he became such an expert on farm and cattle loans that his shrewdness soon was recognized. . . . In 1911 the Stockyards National Bank of east St. Louis made him vice president. . . . Three years later, at 36, he was called to Chicago as vice president of the Livestock Exchange National Bank. . . . At 38 he became its president.

Two large New York banks bid for his services, but the First National of Chicago won him with a vice presidency in 1919. . . . At 47 he became its president. . . . In 1929 he was named to represent the United States in organizing the Bank of International Settlements. . . . Presidential booms started for him in South but he has said he is not a candidate.

IT'S PRESIDENTIAL YEAR

James Hamilton Lewis

Political Headliners

James Hamilton Lewis, he of the famous pink whiskers, sartorial elegance, Chesterfieldian bearing and fluent oratory, is a transplanted son of the Old South. . . . Born May 18, 1866, at Danville, Va., he moved with his family to Georgia as an infant, attended Houghton College and the University of Georgia. . . . Then he began the practice of law at Savannah.

At 20 he went to Seattle, entered politics and was elected to the then territorial Washington Senate. . . . In 1897 was elected congressman-at-large from Washington State . . . . introduced the resolution for recognition of Cuban independence . . . rose to colonel's rank in Spanish-American War, and was the choice of Washington Democrats for the vice presidential nomination in 1900.

In 1903 he went to Chicago as legal adviser to several corporations, and was city attorney from 1904-1907. . . . Was elected U. S. senator in 1913 and despite criticism of President Wilson was chosen first Democratic Party "whip" in Senate. . . . As member of Senate committee studying movement of supplies to doughboys in France, he was slightly wounded at Chateau Thierry.

He was injured again when the boat in which he was returning to this country was struck by a torpedo. . . In 1920 he made an unsuccessful race against Lem Small for the governorship of Illinois. . . . But was the Illinois' Democrats' choice for vice presidency in that year's primary. . . . In 1923 Lewis went abroad in behalf of American concessionaires in Turkish oil fields.

Named by President Wilson as ambasasdor to Belgium, he declined . . . also declined proffered decoration by King Albert of Belgium in recognition of his battlefield wound. . . . Served in behalf of American interests at international conferences at Genoa and Lausanne. . . . Made political comeback in 1930 by winning Illinois senatorship from Ruth Hanna McCormick after 10-year retirement.